

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 20, 2006, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner identified eleven (11) species: Species I depicted in Figures 1-4; Species II depicted in Figure 5; Species III depicted in Figure 6; Species IV depicted in Figures 7-8; Species V depicted in Figure 9; Species VI depicted in Figure 10; Species VII depicted in Figure 11; Species VIII depicted in Figure 12; Species IX depicted in Figure 13; Species X depicted in Figure 14; and Species XI depicted in Figure 15.

In response thereto, Applicant elects the species of Figures 1-4 and designates claims 20, 21-26, 28-29, and 32 as being readable thereon.

The Examiner previously indicated the allowability for claims 9-13. In order to further the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 was previously amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 9. Pending independent claim 19 includes the limitations of allowable claim 10, pending independent claim 20 includes the limitations of allowable claim 11, and pending independent claim 21 includes the limitations of allowable claim 12.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that elected claims 20 and 21, together with elected dependent claims 22-26, 28-29, and 32, are now in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant submits that independent claim 21 is generic to each of the species identified by the Examiner and kindly requests examination of the remaining claims upon allowance of the same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

(INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FROM BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS)

Date: April 20, 2006

By: Wendi Weinstein
Wendi Leigh Weinstein
Registration No. 34,456

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620